

**Statement on the Appointment of Dr. Leonard Jeffries
as a Consultant by Newark City Council**

The undersigned are dismayed at the recent decision of the Newark City Council to appoint Leonard Jeffries as a consultant. Whether or not he may have expertise on Ghana is not for us to judge. However, his speeches and writings on a wide range of inter-group relations in the US make him totally inappropriate to represent the City of Newark, much less in an International gathering.

For years, Dr. Leonard Jeffries has given voice to anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic and anti-Gay prejudices. He has repeatedly expressed some of the most hateful sentiments heard in public forums in the Greater New York area. Whether in his Infamous speech in Albany, NY, in 1991 or more recently In October 1995 in Washington, DC, he has appealed to hatred, and divisiveness. He has sought to give credibility to racially based views and has regularly attacked individuals who may disagree with him as "whites" or "faggots" rather than seeking to discuss issues.

We hope that the Newark City Council will rescind the decision to provide such an individual with a formal platform and the credibility of an official representative of the City of Newark. Newark is a true community bringing together people of widely diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds to live and work together and to share in raising the quality of life for all her citizens. An individual who has come to personify bigotry and prejudice should not be linked to these exciting new developments.

Lawrence J. Freundlich – President, The American Jewish Committee
Msgr. John Gilchrist – Chairman for Commission of Interreligious Affairs
Archdiocese of Newark
Flor Medel – Asian American Civic Association
Nicholas V. Montalta, Ph.D. – International Institute of New Jersey
Dennis F. Klein – President, American Jewish Congress
Dr. David Bosman – Executive Director, Sister Rose Thering Endowment Fund, Seton Hall U.
Andrew Keybida – Ukrainian National Association
Eileen Fishman – Chair, Community Relations Commission
MetroWest Federation
Father Lawrence Frizzell – Seton Hall U.
Shai Goldstein – Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League
Sister Rose Thering – Professor Emerita, Seton Hall U. & Trustee, Kean U.
John M. Alati – Third Vice President, UNICO International
Pablo Fonseca
Anthony Pope
Dr. Terry McSweeney
Anthony Salters
Joe Piscopo
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